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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W
---------- 033269
R 210653Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2958
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY KABUL

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THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMERICAN COUNSUL PESHAWAR:

E.O.#11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: NWFP BYE-ELECTION RESULTS

1. NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY CANDIDATES EMERGED AS WINNERS IN NWFP BYE-ELECTIONS IN MARDAN AND CHARSADDA CONSTITUENCIES JANUARY 17. IN CONTEST FOR CHARSADDA SEAT IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY WALI KHAN, NAP CANDIDATE SHERDIL KHAN DEFEATED MALIK NADIR KHAN, NOMINEE OF PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (QAIYUM), BY 22,085 VOTES TO 14,261 WITH INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE RECEIVING 722 VOTES. IN ELECTION FOR MARDAN SEAT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, NAP CANDIDATE NARROWLY DEFEATED PLM/PPP CANDIDATE HAJI SAIFUR KHAN BY 30,028 TO 29,126 WHILE INDEPENDENT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED WITH MUSLIM LEAGUE OBTAINED 4,783 VOTES. (NOTE-WORTHY THAT NAP LEADER WALI KHAN UNABLE SPEAK ON BEHALF OF HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATES DURING CRUCIAL LAST WEEK OF CAMPAIGN AS HE FORCED OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ENGLISH DOCTOR IN KABUL FOR ONE OF HIS TWO BAD EYES). LEADERS OF MAJOR PARTIES IN BOTH CONSTITUENCIES TOLD SENIOR CONSULATE
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LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON ELECTION DAY AFTER POLLS HAD CLOSED THEY SATISFIED THAT ELECTIONS HAD BEEN FAIRLY HELD WITH ONLY

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MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FRAUDULENT VOTING.

2. IN BYE-ELECTION IN KARAK TEHSIL OF KOHAT DISTRICT FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, GOVERNOR ASLAM KHATTAK'S SON-IN-LAW MOHSIN ALI KHAN WON AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY OVER THREE MAJOR AND SEVERAL MINOR OPPONENTS IN CONTEST WHICH, ACCORDING ALL REPORTS REACHING CONSULATE, INCLUDING STATEMENT FROM LEADING LOCAL NWFP OFFICIAL IN PESHAWAR, WAS FRAUDULENTLY MANIPULATED BY GOVERNMENT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ASLAM KHATTAK, FINAL RESULTS - MOHSIN ALI: 30,910, MASTER KHAN GUL (INDEPENDENT): 3,720, LT. GENERAL (RET) HABIBULLAH (INDEPENDENT): 3,632, GUL RAHMAN (JUI/NAP): 2,464, OTHERS: 1,606. (INTERESTING ASPECT OF OBVIOUS ELECTION RIGGING WAS THAT MASTER KAHN GUL, WHILE REMAINING IN JAIL THROUGHOUT ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND WITH LITTLE MONEY TO SPEND ON ELECTIONEERING, OBTAINED MORE VOTES THAN POPULAR HABIBULLAH WHO REPORTEDLY SPENT MONEY LAVISHLY DURING CAMPAIGN).

3. COMMENT: WITH BOTH NAP AND PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES RETAINING THEIR SEATS, NWFP ELECTION RESULTS HAVE PRODUCED NO CHANGE IN POLITICAL POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION IN PRO-VINCIAL OR NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES. HOWEVER, SINCE MOHSIN ALI IS MEMBER PPP WHILE ASLAM KHATTAK, WHO PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED SEAT, IS INDEPENDENT, THERE HAS BEEN NET GAIN OF ONE FOR PPP N FRONTIER ASSEMBLY. ASLAM KHATTAK, IN WINNING LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR MOHSIN, NOW MATTER HOW FRAUDULENTLY ACHIEVED, HAS SUCCEEDED IN SCORING SOME POLITICAL POINTS AGAINST HIS RIVAL NWFP CHIEF MINISTER DESIGNATE SHERPAO WHO, IN COLLABORATION WITH INTER MINISTER QAIYUM, HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORGANIZING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF PPP/PML CANDIDATES IN MARDAN AND CHARSADDA. WIDESPREAD FEELING HERE PRIOR TO ELECTION WAS THAT IF ASLAM KHATTAK HAD NOT OBTAINED VICTORY FOR HIS SON-IN-LAW, HIS POLITICAL POSITION IN PROVINCE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED WITH POSSIBILITY THAT PRIMIN MIGHT HAVE VERY SOON ARRANGEED FOR HIS OUSTER AS GOVERNOR. WHILE MOHSIN'S VICTORY DOES NOT, OF COURSE, INSURE AGAINST ASLAM KHATTAK'S LATER DISMISSAL BY PRIMIN, IT DOES STRENGTHEN HIM POLITICALLY AND INCREASES LIKELIHOOD HE WILL REMAIN IN PRESENT POST FOR
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SOME TIME.

4. FROM VANTAGE POINT OF PESHAWAR, IT APPEARS THAT GOVERN-MENT'S FAILURE TO INSURE VICTORIES FOR ITS CANDIDATES IN MARDAN AND CHARSADDA BY RIGGING ELECTIONS INDICATES BHUTTO NOT YET READY MOUNT FINAL ASSAULT ON NAP AND MAY EVEN WISH KEEP OPTIONS OPEN OF LATER REACHING SOME SORT OF POLTICIAL AGREEMENT WITH WALI KHAN'S PARTY.
BYROADE

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